

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A surface modified inorganic oxide powder, wherein the an amount of residual volatile organic components is less than 30 ppm, wherein the volatile organic components on the powder surface are removed by applying an initial heat treatment at from higher than 200° C to lower than 400° C at the time of the surface treatment, and then a heat treatment at from higher than 150° C to lower than 400° C.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A surface modified inorganic oxide powder, wherein the an amount of the residual volatile organic components is reduced to less than 30 ppm by the a surface treatment ~~with the use of a treating agent obtained by dissolving a long chain alkylsilane together with a catalyst,~~ wherein the surface treatment is carried out with the use of a diluted treating agent, wherein a long chain alkylsilane having more than 16 carbon atoms is dissolved together with an amine catalyst, and wherein the volatile organic components on the powder surface are removed by applying an initial heat treatment at from higher than 200° C to lower than 400° C at the time of the surface treatment, and then a heat treatment at from higher than 150° C to lower than 400° C.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

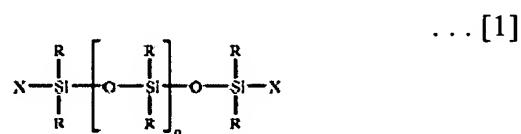
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The surface modified inorganic oxide powder according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 4, wherein the surface treatment is carried out with the use of the treating agent obtained by diluting the long-chain alkylsilane from 2 to 6 times.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The surface modified inorganic oxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the residual volatile organic components is less than 10 ppm.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The surface modified inorganic oxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic oxide powder is silica, titania, alumina, or composite oxide particles comprising one or more these oxides.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The surface modified inorganic oxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the surface treatment is carried out with the use of at least one alkylsilane represented by the following formula [1], [2], [3], or [4]:



wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group which may be optionally substituted partially by a vinyl group, a phenyl group, a polyether group, a epoxy group or an amino group, R bonding to each Si may be the same or different, X represents the R, a

halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or a hydrolysable alkoxy group, and n represents an integer of 15 to 500;

RSiX_3 . . . [2]

$\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{SiX}_2$. . . [3]

$\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^3\text{SiX}$. . . [4]

wherein R represents an alkyl group, and X represents a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an alkoxy group, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 in formula [3] and [4] may be the same or different, and wherein at least one of them R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 has more than 6 carbons preferably.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A polar resin composite obtained by mixing a urethane resin, an epoxy resin, an acrylic resin, an unsaturated polyester resin, a vinyl ester resin, or a silicone modified resin with the surface modified inorganic oxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the content of the modified powder is less than 50% by weight.

Claim 12 (Original): The polar resin composite according to claim 11, wherein the composite is used as an adhesive or a sealant.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 10 are currently amended.

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 7 are canceled.

Support for the amendments can be found in claims 2, 3, 5, and 7, as originally filed and previously presented, and the English translation of the present specification at page 9, lines 13-16.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4, 6, and 7-12 will be pending in this application.